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Chief, London Bureau

11 Feb 1949

Chief, FBIB

Austrian Coverage

1. Caversham flimsies of uncabled Austrian material have for several months been supplied to the CIA branch responsible for Austrian estimates, which has found them of real value as a supplement to the limited coverage of Austria in the Daily Report. It is in general not desirable, however, to render a special service to one office in exception to the normal FBIB procedure of collection and dissemination; and special handling of Austrian flimsies has been discontinued.

2. The fact that discarded flimsies were found to be of value indicates a deficiency in volume and selection of cabled Austrian material which it is desired to correct. Moderate expansion of the file is required, with increased emphasis upon economic material and attention to political items of intelligence significance, as opposed to isolated dramatic incidents of newspaper value only.

3. FBIB reports are of particular value to analysts in giving advance warning of economic or political trends before they are sufficiently definite to be reflected in official reports. Specific examples of such trends in Austria foreshadowed in Caversham flimsies but not adequately reflected in cabled copy have been:

- a. Wage and price dissatisfaction and negotiations.
- b. Shortages of hydro-electric power and resulting industrial decline.
- c. Non-delivery of farm quotas.

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cc: Ch. Editorial Div

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